

ASHLAND, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in the City of Ashland today for an update on several local water and sewer projects made possible by federal funds Obey obtained over the past several years.

“Access to clean water, good roads, and efficient sewers are the basic building blocks for community growth but often small communities cannot afford them without federal help” said Obey. “That’s why we created the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program to help promote economic development and to ease the squeeze on local ratepayers. I’m glad to be here today to see first-hand how Ashland’s projects are moving forward.”

Obey received updates on a variety of water and sewer projects; including sanitary, storm and water improvements along USH 2, replacement of the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue water main, work on the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue water and sewer mains, and storm water and drainage improvements at Beaser and MacArthur Avenues.

Section 154 - the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program - was created by Obey in 2000 to help Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron counties finance work for repairing, expanding and upgrading water related infrastructure, including wells, sewer systems, dams, and wastewater treatment facilities. Section 154 dollars may fund up to 75 percent of the total project cost. Projects funded by the program are selected by a special committee composed of representatives from the local counties and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over the last few years, Obey has secured more than \$44 million for projects under this special authority.

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